

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, HU

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FONMIN IN BUDAPEST: ANTUNES SUPPORTS MPLA

REF: LISBON 0141 (DTG 081616Z JAN 76) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: BLAND COMMUNIQUE ON PORTUGUESE FONMIN ANTUNES'S
OFFICIAL VISIT TO BUDAPEST EXPRESSED PORTUGUESE-HUNGARIAN
AGREEMENT ON NEED TO FURTHER DEVELOP DETENTE AND BILATERAL
RELATIONS. IN REMARKS TO PORTUGUESE PRESS, FONMIN MELO ANTUNES
DESCRIBED MPLA AS FORCE MOST LIKELY TO GUARANTEE INDEPENDENT AND
DEMOCRATIC ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

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1. PORTUGUESE FONMIN MAJ ERNESTO MELO ANTUNES MADE OFFICIAL

VISIT TO BUDAPEST JAN 12-15 FOR MEETINGS WITH HUNGARIAN
COUNTERPART FIRGYES PUJA. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT RELEASED
JAN 15 MADE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:

-- BILATERAL RELATIONS: FONMINS AGREED THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
OF BILATERAL RELATIONS IN INTERESTS OF BOTH PORTUGAL AND
HUNGARY. NEGOTIATIONS TO CONCLUDE NEW TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC,
ROAD TRANSPORT, SHIPPING, AND TOURISM AGREEMENTS SHOULD BEGIN SOON.
-- DETENTE: PROCESS WAS BECOMING "IRREVERSIBLE," THUS OPENING WAY
FOR INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERING SOCIAL
SYSTEMS. DETENTE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY DISARMAMENT
AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SALT AND MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
MIGHT COME TO SPEEDY AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.
-- MIDDLE EAST: FONMINS AGREED THAT "LASTING AND JUST PEACE
IN MIDDLE EAST MUST BE BASED ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF UN
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS, WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES
FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, OBSERVANCE OF LEGITIMATE
RIGHTS OF PALESTINE PEOPLE AND SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF
EVERY STATE IN REGION."
-- ANGOLA: FONMINS ENGAGED IN "USEFUL DISCUSSION" ON ANGOLA; NO
DETAILS.
-- HUNGARIAN FONMIN ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT PORTUGAL AT A
TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED.
-- CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND HUNGARY WAS SIGNED
BUT PROVISIONS WERE NOT ANNOUNCED.

2. COSTA GOMES INVITED: PORTUGUESE PRESS REPORTED THAT
OFFICIAL INVITATION TO VISIT HUNGARY HAD ALSO BEEN EXTENDED
TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES.

3. MELO ANTUNES COMMENTS ON ANGOLA: IN JAN 15 CONVERSATION
WITH PORTUGUESE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COVERING HIS TRIP,
MELO ANTUNES COMMENTED ON SITUATION IN ANGOLA. HE SAID "PORTUGAL
BELIEVES MPLA TO BE FORCE MOST IKELY TO MAKE ANGOLA INDEPENDENT
AND DEMOCRATIC NATION." NOTING THAT PORTUGAL DID NOT WISH TO
INTERFERE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS,
ANTUNES ADDED THAT PORTUGAL DID DESIRE THAT ANGOLA BECOME
"INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC."

4. COMMENT: MELO ANTUNES WAS SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF RE MPLA --
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NOT FOR "PORTUGAL." HIS PERSONAL REMARK HAS BEEN NOTED HERE
AND WILL PROBABLY CAUSE HIM FURTHER DIFFICULTIES WITH MORE
CONSERVATIVE FORCES WHICH CURRENTLY DOMINATE GOP. SOARES TOLD
ME LAST NIGHT HE WAS OUTRAGED BY ANTUNES'S STATEMENT AND ASSUMED
IT PRESAGED ANOTHER OFFENSIVE TO HAVE GOP RECOGNIZE MPLA.
SOCIALISTS INTEND TO CONTINUE TO STAND FIRM ON THIS ISSUE.
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